

# ***Fogland Beach Oversight Committee***

## **Pre-Season Inspection Tour of Fogland Beach 16 May 2013**

Members present: T. Ramotowski (Chairman), C. Lima (Neighborhood Representative), C. Clarendon (Harbor Commission), and M. Van Hof (Open Space Commission).

Members absent: J. Goncalo (Town Administrator); S. Berlucci (Director of Public Works) and C. Roemlein (Recreation Commission).

The 2012 pre-season inspection tour of the Town-owned property at Fogland commenced at the bathhouse at 4:35 PM.

The Committee inspected the new location for the playground, which had been moved from its former location across the street to a position adjacent to the eastern side of the bathhouse. The playground is fenced in on three sides (the water-facing side is not fenced). The new playground looks nice. It might be necessary to put up some kind of barrier along the sides of the playground fencing so that vehicles do not drive on the dunes nearby to get around the playground. Access to the parking area to the east of the bathhouse is now realized through the unpaved road just past the attendant's shack.

The committee members noted that the beach had been graded and leveled so that the areas damaged by the fall and winter storms had been smoothed out. Some new, large dunes had been built between the parking areas along the roadway and the water on the south side beach.

The cul-de-sac road and the former location of the playground were inspected and found to be in good shape.

Extensive work has been performed by the Department of Public Works in rebuilding the dunes on the north side of the roadway at the location where Fogland peninsula is most narrow (and where water had overtopped the land during the storms, causing heavy damage to the beach dunes located north of the road in that area. The small parking lot formerly located in this area just north of the road is now gone and replaced with substantial, rebuilt dunes with a passageway for pedestrians to reach the north cove beach ears. The committee members noted that the new dunes needed to be vegetated to be better stabilized and suggested that the Town look into getting appropriate plants . A volunteer workforce could plant native vegetation on the new dunes during the

fall season (perhaps with help from students from the High School looking for community service projects).

The Committee members noted a new sign on the beach reminding dog owners to clean up after their pets. The Committee members felt the sign should remind beach visitors that dogs are not allowed on the beach during the summer season (Memorial Day through Labor Day).

The inspection tour continued along Three Rod Way to the unpaved road leading to the windsurfer's beach on the northwest corner of the property. Clearing, widening and leveling of the access road were noted. The fall and winter storms had deposited a large amount of sand and cobbles at the point where the access road turns east and travels along the barrier beach. So much material had been deposited at that point that it was largely impassible to vehicles. At the time of the inspection tour, however, it was noted that someone had removed and leveled out the pile of storm deposited material so that most vehicles could once again negotiate the turn. Removal of the storm deposited material had been forbidden by the CRMC, and the circumstances under which the material had been removed was unclear.

The extreme end of the parking area on the "windsurfer's beach" is marked by a boulder barrier that prevents vehicles from driving further along the beach and entering the salt marsh. The boulder barrier is in need of some additional boulders on its end that extends down below the mean low tide level – the boulders that had previously been placed there had sunk into the sand to such an extent that vehicles can drive over them at low tide and then drive on the rest of the beach and in the salt marsh. The Committee will ask the Department of Public Works to see if it can place additional boulders in that location to keep vehicles out of the environmentally sensitive areas.

The 2013 pre-season Fogland Beach inspection tour ended at 5:35 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

T. Ramotowski, Chairman